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Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO START CONTINUOUS, LOW-LEVEL RELEASES FROM LAKE OKEECHOBEE SUNDAY MORNING

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (SAJ) will start a continuous, low-level release on Sunday, Oct. 12 from Lake Okeechobee to both the Caloosahatchee River and the St. Lucie Canal. The release will continue until further notice.

The goal of the new release is to achieve a daily average flow not to exceed 450 cfs and 200 cfs to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuary, respectively. These target flows to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie Estuary will be measured at S-79 (W.P Franklin Lock and Dam) and S-80 (St. Lucie Lock and Dam).

Today, the lake stage is 14.96 feet NGVD. The Lake is within the operational band of the 2008 Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS) which proscribes the new release regime of up to 450 cfs and 200 cfs to the Caloosahatchee and St Lucie, respectively.

“We are continuing releases because we are still well within the hurricane season, the lake is near 15 feet, and primarily because LORS calls for them,” said Jacksonville District Engineering Division Chief Steve Duba. “We want to ensure we have capacity in the lake to handle the possibility of one or more storms before the end of the season.”

Conditions will continue to be closely monitored and assessed by Corps water managers. Should conditions arise which call for changes according to the 2008 LORS, the Jacksonville District will respond accordingly.



For further information, please call the Jacksonville District Corporate Communications Office at 904-232-2236 or (cell) 904-614-4976.

Water level data and flows for Lake Okeechobee and the Central and Southern Florida Project can be found on the Jacksonville District web site, water management page, at <http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/h2o/index.htm>.